

THE BARENTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT

**The importance of Indigenous peoples
in the Barents cooperation**

Oslo/Karasjok/Västerbotten, 23 April 2021

Dear friends of the Barents region,

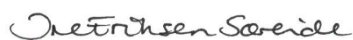
The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our daily lives and has had wide-ranging economic and health impacts. It has highlighted the importance of cross-border dialogue in the north and the need to further strengthen the Barents cooperation.

The situation for the Indigenous peoples in the Barents region is particularly difficult. The Barents cooperation serves as a platform for enabling Indigenous peoples' voices to be heard at all levels, as well as for addressing pressing issues and exchanging valuable knowledge and experience across borders.

It is against this backdrop that we now have the pleasure of inviting you to the third Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit on Tuesday 8 June 2021. The meeting will be conducted as an open online video conference.

Please see the tentative programme attached. More detailed technical information will be provided at a later date.

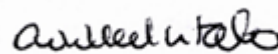
Yours sincerely,



Ine Eriksen Søreide
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway
Chair of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council



Helene Hellmark Knutsson
Governor of Västerbotten
Chair of the Barents Regional Council



Aili Keskitalo
President of the Sami Parliament in Norway



Piera Heaika Muotka
Chair of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples

